

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Sixty-Second Annual Session

OF THE

North River Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Jasper Church, Walker County,

September 26, 27, 28, 1896.

OFFICERS:

W. B. APPLING, MODERATOR,.....Jasper, Ala.

J. S. WATTS, CLERK,.....Oakman, Ala.

The Next Session to be held with Berry Station Baptist Church, Fayette County, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1897.

Mountain Eagle Print, Jasper, Alabama.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.
3. Presentation of Letters from the Churches.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Invite visiting ministers not delegates to seats.
7. Receive Correspondence.
8. Return Correspondence.
9. Appointment of Special Committees:
 - (1) On Religious Exercises.
 - (2) On Documents and Requests.
 - (3) On Nominations.
 - (4) On Finance.
10. Call for Report of Standing Committees:
 - (1) On Sunday Schools.
 - (2) On Sunday School organization.
 - (3) On Temperance.
 - (4) On State Missions.
 - (5) On Home Missions.
 - (6) On Foreign Missions.
 - (7) On Denominational Education.
 - (8) On Eldridge School.
 - (9) On Religious Literature
 - (10) On Orphan's Home.
 - (11) On Prayer and Prayer Meetings.
 - (12) On Aged and Infirm Ministers.
11. Report of Treasurer.
12. Appoint Treasurer.
13. Call for Report of Special Committees:
 - (1) On Documents and Requests.
 - (2) On Nominations.
 - (3) On Finance.
14. Call for Report of Executive Committee.
15. Appoint Standing Committees.
16. Miscellaneous Business.
17. Read Minutes, call Roll and Adjourn.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Sixty Second Annual Session of the North River Baptist Association convened with Jasper Church on Saturday, September 26th, 1896.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder L. B. Harbin; text, Mat. 21:28. After preaching adjourned for one hour.

At 1:30 o'clock p. m., the delegates re-assembled. After devotional exercises by J. E. Barnard, was called to order by W. B. Appling, Moderator.

An address of welcome was delivered by H. C. Hurley, Pastor Jasper Church. Response by Elder L. B. Harbin.

On motion the reading of the Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum was dispensed with.

PRESENTATION OF LETTERS.

Sheriff Lacy and J. E. Barnard were appointed to read the letters.

LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.

- Bethabara—T. J. Harbin, N. H. Harbin and W. B. Oakley.
Bethlehem—E. H. Pool, E. Mims and W. W. Popwell.
Bethel—O. G. Kilgore, J. W. Morris and Will Morris.
Berry Station—L. F. Gammon and A. J. Hocutt.
Carbon Hill—J. L. Dickinson and T. H. Boyd.
Jasper—H. C. Hurley, William RanColph, James Hilton, L. A. Morris, W. B. Appling, J. F. Appling, W. G. Davis, W. H. Moore, C. C. Kelly, Sheriff Lacy, G. D. O'Rear, J. M. Williams and J. A. Huggins.
Liberty Grove—L. L. McCullars, W. H. Sides, G. H. Ramey and R. F. Keeton.
Liberty—C. C. Collins, A. M. Hyde, C. A. Sims and L. O. Howell.
Mt. Zion—M. L. Jones and James Patton.
Mt. Joy—H. G. Amerson, J. M. Kimbrell and W. M. Kimbrell.
Mt. Carmel—J. A. Sumner, A. M. Douglass and M. J. Pate.
New Hope—F. M. Mackey and J. W. Bagwell.
New Prospect—J. E. Sherer, William Brakefield, J. L. Wright, L. P. Kiker and J. P. Mooney.
Oakman—J. S. Watts, T. V. Butler, E. S. Carden and J. E. Vice.
Oregonia—C. C. Davis, W. D. Utley and R. L. Baker.
Pleasant Grove—W. T. Rutledge, W. F. Sides, A. S. Sparks, T. J. Jackson and J. B. Grace.
Providence—J. W. Phifer, J. A. Douglass, B. F. Clements and S. E. Walton.
Samaria—E. L. Brown, J. C. Daniel, J. B. Sherer, W. T. Sherer, T. N. Sherer and R. F. Sumner.
Spring Hill—J. V. Lawson and Wm. McGough.
Townley—G. G. Bagwell, J. A. Wright and D. A. Keeton.

2 *North River Baptist Association.*

The Association was permanently organized by the election (by acclamation) of W. B. Appling, Moderator, and J. S. Watts, Clerk.

Received petitionary letter and delegates from Saragossa: C. Richardson, D. S. Smith, G. L. Wilson and W. P. Smith.

Received visiting Ministers who were not delegates, towit: L. B. Harbin, Leroy Williams, Alsey Johnson and Dr. W. C. Bledsoe, Corresponding Secretary Board of Missions, and A. R. Hardee, pastor Greensborough Church.

Received correspondence from Harmony Grove Association: J. E. Barnard.

Returned correspondence, towit: Tuscaloosa Association, L. A. Morris and W. T. Walton; New River Association, J. M. Kimbrell, H. G. Amerson and N. H. Harbin; Clear Creek Association, C. C. Collins, James Hilton and G. H. Ramey; Mud Creek Association, H. L. Watlington and L. B. Harbin; Harmony Grove Association, C. C. Kelley, J. L. Dickinson, W. G. Davis, H. C. Hurley, L. A. Morris, W. T. Rutledge and G. H. Boyd.

The following committees were announced:

On Religious Exercises—Pastors and Deacons of Jasper Church—H. G. Amerson and R. L. Baker.

On Documents and Requests—N. H. Harbin, J. A. Sumner and John L. Wright.

On Nominations—S. Lacy, R. M. Rice and J. L. Dickinson.

On Finance—G. D. O'Rear, E. Mims and J. W. Phifer.

Report on Sunday Schools was passed till 9:30 o'clock, Sunday morning.

Report on Temperance deferred till Sunday, 2:30 p. m.

On motion it was ordered that all the reports on Missions be read and discussed jointly.

Reports on State and Home Missions were read.

The further reading of reports on Missions was deferred till Monday morning.

Report on Religious Literature read, and after being discussed by C. C. Kelley and others, was adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We, your committee on Religious Literature, beg leave to submit the following report:

1. We wish to recommend to our people the Alabama Baptist, Western Recorder, Texas Baptist, the State and Foreign Mission Journals, together with other denominational literature published in the bounds of the Southern Baptist Convention. We desire to impress every Baptist in the North River Association

with the importance of taking at least one of these papers, and learn what our denomination is doing, and what God is doing for his people. No Baptist can be the support to his church or as active a christian as he should be unless he keeps thoroughly posted as to the work of our denomination.

2. We recommend the Southern Baptist Convention Series of Sunday School Literature for use in our Sunday Schools. It is being prepared by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention; therefore it should receive the hearty support of all Baptist Sunday Schools. We find a great number of Baptist churches and communities without Sunday Schools; therefore we recommend that the Moderator of this Association be authorized to appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to organize Sunday Schools in every Baptist Church where there is none. We believe that it is of the utmost importance, and if we neglect it the Baptists of the North River Association will sustain a great loss; for we believe that through the Sunday Schools the church is supplied with more live, working christians, than it receives from all the other sources combined.

3. We recommend that each Church in this Association secure as early as possible a library of books, such as John T. Christian's Works on Baptism, Church Communion, and other christian literature, that our people, the young especially, may learn and know why they are Baptists. We need more denominational pride among us. If we had a higher denominational education, which can only be gained by denominational literature, there would not be so many dead-heads in our churches. We are taught to believe that he who is dragging along through the world without a fixed opinion as to his denominational surroundings, his duty to his God and his church will always be a stumbling block to those who are at work earnestly and intelligently in the cause of God and his church.

Yours, fraternally,

C. C. KELLEY, Chairman.

Report on Orphan's Home was read by L. B. Harbin. After discussion, was adopted.

REPORT OF ORPHAN'S HOME.

Dear Brethren: We have an Orphan's Home at Evergreen, Alabama. The baptists own six thousand dollars worth of property in lands and buildings; and we have in that home thirty-five children to be fed, clothed and educated. As this is a baptist institution, we look to the baptists to support it and we recommend that a collection be taken for its support.

L. B. HARBIN, Chairman.

On motion it was ordered that a collection be taken at night for the Orphan's Home.

Adjourned till 9:30 a. m. Sunday.

Preaching at night by John E. Barnard.

At the close of the preaching a collection was taken for the Orphan's Home—\$7.94.

SUNDAY—MORNING SESSION.

At 9:30 a. m. met pursuant to adjournment. After devotional exercises by James Hilton, was called to order.

Report on Sunday Schools read, and after being discussed by J. H. McGuire, Dr. W. C. Bledsoe and others, was adopted.

North River Baptist Association.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

How to spend the Sabbath of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is one of the living issues of our present day. If we are to judge from the meagre reports of Sunday Schools sent us by our churches, we might conclude that the fourth commandment sets very lightly upon some of our churches and most of our brethren. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," is as binding on God's chosen people today as "Thou shalt not steal," and the rising and future generations are just as dependent on God's chosen people—that is, upon the church and its influence, for the preservation of the one as the other. But for the influence of God's Word, exerted in the world through the church, civil government would crumble and fall, and the race would degenerate and retrograde into barbarism. Strong influences are at work everywhere to overturn the blessed influences of the Sabbath, as it came down from Sinai and as it has been administered by the Church and by God's people all the ages. Boast as we may of this christian land, the humiliating fact remains that the church and God's people have not kept pace with the increasing demands upon us for the right observance of the Sabbath day. Men are not all agreed as to how it should be observed, nor, indeed, as to whether it should be observed at all. A large and powerful foreign element is coming to our shores almost daily who think of the Lord's Day as only a day of amusement, or of pleasure, or of reveling. In our large cities the race-ground, the base-ball park, the theatre and the beer-garden, are places much more frequented on the Sabbath than are our Sunday Schools. Open stores, open shops and open saloons are sometimes winked at by city boards; and railroad corporations openly violate the fourth commandment and defy our statute laws for the observance of the Sabbath with perfect impunity. In the face of all this we see our churches year by year growing less and less interested in the Sunday School work as indicated by the statistics. The Holy Spirit hath said: "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." This is God's truth, and it applies to every age and every clime. From it we should take courage and go to work in our churches and through our Sunday Schools to teach the Scriptures, check the rising tide of infidelity and so-called liberalism that is threatening to overturn the hallowed institution of the Sabbath,

Respectfully submitted, J. H. McGUIRE, Chairman.

At 11 a. m. a Missionary sermon was preached at the Baptist Church by Dr. W. C. Bledsoe, and at the Methodist Church preaching by A. R. Hardee.

After which a collection for Missions was taken.

Names of those who contributed were:

J H McGuire, pd.....	\$5 00	G G Bagwell, pd.....	\$ 1 00
C C Kelley, pd.....	5 00	J E Barnard, pd.....	1 00
L B Harbin, pd.....	5 00	W H Moore, pd.....	1 00
G D O'Rear, pd.....	5 00	Sister Williams, pd.....	1 00
A L Files, pd.....	1 00	H L Watlington.....	1 00
J L Wright, pd.....	1 00	Basket collection, pd.....	16 88

Total collection.....\$43 88

Adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2:30 p. m. met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by W. T. Rutledge.

Report on Temperance read, and after being discussed by S. Lacy, L. A. Morris and others, was adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

It is the opinion of this committee that the cause of Temperance—total abstinence from strong drink—is steadily advancing in this country; that a very great majority of our church members have ceased to be even an occasional dram-drinker, but following the teachings of the good book, they “touch not, taste not, handle not the unclean thing.” We feel to thank God that such is the case, and trust the day may speedily come when ALL men, whether they be christians or not, may be awakened on this subject and made to see as well as the finite mind can the untold and inconceivable evils of strong drink. Words cannot express, the human mind cannot fully conceive of, the evil influences of intoxicating drink in this country. Nothing but eternity can even measure it. God save our church members and young men from this the greatest of all evils.

SHERIFF LACY, Chairman.

At night preaching by A. R. Hardee.

MONDAY—MORNING SESSION.

At 8 o'clock a. m. met pursuant to adjournment. Devotional exercises by L. B. Harbin. Invited delegates who were not present Saturday to come forward, and delegates from Mt. Zion came with letter and was received.

Report on Denominational Education was read by H. L. Watlington, and after being discussed by L. B. Harbin and others, was adopted.

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

Your committee on Denominational Education report that never before in the history of our Church has the need of denominational education become so apparent as now—never the opportunity of pulpit and press to educate the people as at present. People inside the church and outside are reading more and thinking more upon religious matters than ever before, and the inquiry, “What is Truth?” is now heard on every hand, an honest, earnest desire to follow Jesus is the beginning of every convert's life; old and young are concerning themselves as to the ethics of christianity as never before. Unhappily this age of inquiry is accompanied by exhibitions of christian charlantry, the search for truth is too often met by scientific conclusions on one hand, or by evangelistic tent murmery on the other. It remains alone for the Church of Jesus Christ to take high ground, and by its pulpit, denominational papers, and in its colleges and schools, to publish fearlessly to the world the grand fundamental doctrines of our Baptist faith. We believe this to be necessary to the education of those in our several churches who are not so bright in the tenets of our faith as the time requires. We, as Baptists, know we are right, and knowing this our duty is plain, to educate all in our faith. We, as a denomination, while knowing we are right, cannot expect to occupy the sphere God intends us to fill unless we educate those around us, especially our young men and women. We daily hear the most sacred of our principles attacked. Immersion and close-communication seems to be the points upon which are hurled all the invective, ridicule and argument of other denominations, and the world; and how often does the young Baptist's ears tingle with disgust as he

hears his church maligned and laughed at, and he knows too little of its doctrines, its history, and of its biblical foundations, to resent or to hold argument in its support. God has with the necessity furnished the instruments for this education. First of all, he has given us the Bible, and the Bible is the best denominational educator for the Baptist. He has given us colleges and schools and other various mediums of education; and when we plead for the support of denominational institutions and a higher educational requirement for our leaders, we in no wise deprecate the noble work of those old warriors of the cross who have achieved so much for and through Christ, but we recognize that thinking and educated men must break the bread of life to thinking, educated men.

We, as Baptists, feel proud of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky, and the army of young giants who have left its walls, fully equipped for the battle for God. They can be met with throughout the length and breadth of the world. But we cannot close our eyes to the lamentable fact that Dr. Wm. H. Whitsitt, its president, has injected a question into the religious world that has caused a pang of regret in every loyal Baptist heart, in the question as to the mode of baptism prior to the 17th century, and we believe that he is wrong when he advocated "that it is better for the Baptist wife of a pedo-Baptist to join the pedo-Baptist church of husband." We affirm that his views are not in accord with Baptist sentiment or doctrine; and we believe that either Dr. Whitsitt or the Baptists should be vindicated. Let our prayers ascend to God that He will in His wisdom direct the leaders of this grand educational institution, so that He alone shall be glorified.

We thank God that the financial cloud so long hanging over our beloved Howard College is being lifted, and that its future is brighter. We note with pleasure that a larger number of young men than usual have already matriculated for the present session, commencing last Tuesday. How many pastors and congregations today can heartily say: "God bless Howard College?" We believe every Baptist having sons to educate should send them to Howard. It is a duty they owe to God, their denomination, their boys and themselves.

We deeply mourn the sudden death of Dr. S. W. Averett, so long the beloved president of the Judson, at Marion. God raise up a man who shall worthily wear his mantle. We trust every Baptist family who can will send their daughters to Judson. How many noble women are there today working for Jesus whose religious and literary education was derived from that grand institution.

But we recognize that all young Baptists cannot go to the Southern Seminary, to Howard, to Judson, and we note with pleasure that there is a movement to establish denominational schools nearer home, where every one can attend cheaply and without inconvenience. One at Eldridge is the subject of another report. These home denominational schools should multiply. We do not believe they would be competitors of higher institutions, but suggest they would be feeders for them.

We cannot speak too highly of Sabbath Schools, Sunbeams and Baptist Young People's Unions, as educators. We believe each and all are of God, and we urge upon parents their duty to accompany their children to Sunday Schools, and to encourage them in attendance on Sunbeam organizations, and to the young Baptists we would say attend the Union. How God has blessed us in the numerous ways whereby we can obtain and impart Baptist education. Above all, brethren, do not neglect perhaps the greatest educator of all "home influence."

Respectfully submitted,

H. L. WATLINGTON.

Report of Committee on Education, or Eldridge School, was read, and after being discussed by H. L. Watlington and C. C. Kelley, was adopted, and the same committee continued to wit: C. C. Kelley, H. L. Watlington and W. G. Davis.

REPORT ON ELDRIDGE SCHOOL.

We, your committee appointed by the Association at its last meeting as a standing committee on education for the purpose of taking action on the establishment of a denominational school at Eldridge, Alabama, do hereby respectfully report: That we have on the part of this Association taken charge of this matter and have done all in our power to have the said school in condition, so that a faculty can be elected and pupils admitted during the present fall. We find, however, that we lack sufficient money to complete the building and furnish it so soon as we had expected. Your committee report that the several committees appointed by this Association last year to visit Harmony Grove, New River and sister associations, did so, and brought the matter of the school before these associations, each of which appointed co-operative committees for the churches of their several associations, but as organized bodies they have rendered no assistance; indeed, they have not been heard from, and your committee on the part of this Association have assumed the responsibility of the work and of pushing this part of the work to a finish; and we doubt not a successful future. Upon taking charge of this undertaking, your committee was practically put in possession as trustees of five acres of land lying near the lovely little town of Eldridge. Upon this ground we found the walls of the prospective school building, which is of native stone. The labor and material utilized in building these four walls cost a little over fourteen hundred and twenty-five dollars, every dollar of which—and more—was raised by personal subscription. Besides the amount expended on this building, your committee found and has in charge a list of unpaid subscriptions, which is embodied in this final report, viz:

FINANCIAL REPORT.

To amount of unpaid subscriptions on hand when committee took charge.....	\$365 00
To amount contributed and secured by promissory note of contributors, raised by your committee.	412 50
Amount subscribed	\$777 50
Of this amount we have collected on old subscriptions the sum of.	\$275 00
Amount now due	502 50

Thus your committee has received in cash the sum of \$275 00, and has expended the sum of \$275 00. Thus your committee is without funds, but has unpaid subscriptions on hand amounting to five hundred and two dollars, all of which, except ninety dollars, is secured by promissory notes of subscribers. The sum of two hundred and seventy-five dollars was expended on mason work and material, and the walls of the building are now completed ready for the roof to be put on and the doors and windows placed; and if the outstanding contributions could be utilized, we could do this. We feel sure an additional five hundred dollars would complete and furnish it.

We have decided to incorporate the school at the next session of the General Assembly, in such a manner that we can issue certificates of stock of a small denomination, thus putting it in

the power of every one to assist in the good work. Numbers have subscribed to this stock, and we are confident we will be able to raise the needed money.

The titles to the property is now in a board of trustees, who will convey the titles so soon as the school is incorporated. We earnestly trust that every Church in this Association will bring the matter up and see that every member subscribes to this stock. We feel assured that this Association will be proud of this school and that it will prove a blessing to all who reside within its influence,

C. C. KELLEY,
H. L. WATLINGTON,
W. G. DAVIS,
Committee.

Report on Foreign Missions was read by J. H. McGuire, and after the discussion, all the reports on Missions by Dr. W. C. Bledsoe and others, they were all adopted.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee had no data at hand from which to report statistics of this important work. The Board is located at Montgomery, with Bro. W. C. Bledsoe as its secretary, and is doing a grand work, and deserves to be fostered by our churches and associations. This work includes our own Association, our churches our neighborhoods and our homes—how important, how needful Brethren, let us not neglect our State Mission Work. We have no Missionary in our Association; we feel the effect. During the work of our last Missionary we had a church constituted at Carbon Hill, one at Boldo, one at Parish, one at Bethpage, one at Nauvoo, one at Coal Bed, and at each of these churches there has been a great number of conversions and additions; why not carry on the work? May we be better Missionaries than we have ever been.

JAMES HILTON, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

There is no question of greater importance or demanding more imperatively our immediate concentrated action than the question of Home Missions.

The treasurer's report for 1896 show a decrease in the contributions to home missions to the amount of more than \$1500. Of this amount we have to confess with honest regret that Alabama's decrease was \$618 12, which is more than one-third of the entire amount. And still, the influx of foreign population increases so rapidly, that the difference between home and foreign missions will soon be a matter of distance only. Already our population is so intermixed that we can scarcely distinguish between the nationalities of our citizens. And while the tide of immigration seems to pour southward especially, the contact has imperceptibly inculcated into the minds of our people, the young especially, many ideas, both political and religious, which are altogether foreign to our government and incompatible with our institutions. The rapid increase of skepticism, materialism and infidelity, which is the inevitable result of this contact, sounds a bugle note of alarm whose signal cannot be mistaken. It bids us arise and put on the whole armor of God and prepare for the battle, for the fight is now on us, and we must either valiantly conquer or shamefully surrender. These samples of heathenism, which God in his providence has cast among us, afford wonderful opportunities for home mission work, and may be made powerful instruments of foreign mission work. But if we do not christianize them they will infidelize us, and waft the message back to their native lands that christianity is a sham, a farce, a failure.

In this connection, as of first importance, let us remember our young men. According to the census of 1890 there were more than 9,500,000 of young men between the ages of fifteen and thirty, and a proportionate increase to present date implies today more than 10,000,000. What these are, America will become.

It is probable that nine-tenths of them are passive, unassertive of any fixed convictions, while perhaps one-tenth of them have no fixed convictions on religion. By this we do not mean that they are in that proportion unwilling to assert and defend the doctrine of christianity in some way or other, but, that they have that exaggerated idea of American religious liberty and tolerance which makes them so compromising, pliant and conciliatory; that they have no well-defined tenets of religion, lest they should be called dogmatic. And for this reason they will not put on the whole armor of God, and hence cannot be soldiers in the battle that must now be fought with the various forms of infidelity. Add to this fact the ardent aspirations of the young to exceed their ancestors, to regard every innovation as progress, and then remember that about sixty per cent. of the middle-aged, and older of our professed soldiers of the cross, are ready to endorse almost any heterodoxical sentiment just to meet the approbation of adolescent enthusiasm; or, remain quiescent to avoid censure or conflict, and you have a solution of the question. Why are hundreds of thousands of our young men today, in the church and out of it, crowding the streets and saloons and gambling dens of thieves—every day, everywhere, indulging in every known immorality and dissipation? Brethren, let us be admonished. If we would see it otherwise. Let us hearken to the voice of the Prophet of the Lord—"Lift up a standard for the people." Let us seek the old paths again. To be neutral is to be traitorous. God has placed us where we must fight His battle or surrender His cause to our everlasting shame. The only rescue for our young men is religion. The only antidote or remedy for socialism, materialism and skepticism, is religion. The only way to avert the foreign influences thrown so forcibly upon us, is to throw out, with greater force, the everlasting gospel, and put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Would you rescue the fallen and dying, preach the Word. Push home missions with all your might and they will push foreign missions till the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the great deep. And then shall every man have rejoicing in himself and not another. Let us no more grudge the Lord his own, but give as God has given. For all things are of him, for him and to him; and we are stewards who must account to him.

Respectfully submitted, L. A. MORRIS, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee report: 1st. Our churches are not doing anything in this branch of christian endeavor worth reporting. Our fields in China, in Japan, in Africa, in Mexico, in Italy and elsewhere, are crying for help. Our Foreign Board is bankrupt and in debt over \$30,000, and still our people and our churches withhold their substance wherewith God has blessed them. The Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us," comes to us from the four quarters of the globe; and do we heed it? Have we kept the faith! The answer is no. Then no wonder we complain of hard times. God says: "A faithful man shall abound with blessings, but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent." Proverbs 28:20.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. McGUIRE, Chairman.

On motion the Association indorsed the proposition of Dr. W. C. Bledsoe to put a man in this part of the

State, and that we try to raise one hundred and fifty dollars for State Missions; and further, that any of our brethren or churches who may raise funds for the Greensborough Church building forward the same to A. R. Hardee at Greensborough, Ala.

Report on Prayer and Prayer Meetings was read by R. L. Baker, and was adopted.

REPORT ON PRAYER AND PRAYER MEETINGS.

In the absence of your committee on Prayer and Prayer Meetings, we beg leave to submit the following: That a well-regulated prayer meeting in every church is a necessity, is a proposition, the correctness of which cannot be successfully denied. That there are very few such prayer meetings in this Association must be evident to any one who gave strict attention to the reading of the letters from the different churches. Brethren, we are taught in God's Word that He will be sought unto for His blessings, and that we should pray always and not faint. "Where two or three are gathered together in My name and shall agree as touching any one thing," is as true today as when it was uttered by our Lord. And His promise to be in the midst of such an assembly to grant unto them their petition should be of sufficient attractive force to bring the christians of every community together at the House of God, at least once every week, to ask God for His blessings which are in store for them.

Respectfully submitted, R. L. BAKER, Chairman.

Then a man who lives in Jasper sent a request to the Association that special prayer be made for his child that was very sick. The business was suspended and a special prayer was made for that father's sick child to be restored to health.

Resolved, That the eleven o'clock collection made on Sunday at the Methodist and Baptist churches be paid to Dr. Bledsoe for the work of our denomination, which he represents.

REPORT ON AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

We, your committee on aged and infirm ministers, report as follows: We know of only one in the bounds of this Association, to wit: Our beloved brother, L. B. Harbin, who has worn himself out in the cause of God in this Association, and is now dependent to such an extent as to call forth the great sympathy and support of all our churches. We recommend that a collection be taken immediately after the reading of this report for his relief.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. RUTLEDGE, Chairman.

Then a collection was taken for aged and infirm ministers, amounting to \$17.23.

Adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order at 2 o'clock and L. A. Morris led in prayer.

Treasurer's report read and adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Balance on hand.....	\$ 1 50
Received for minutes.....	17 00
“ association purposes.....	8 15
“ Foreign missions.....	30
“ L. B. Hardin.....	26 90
“ S. A. Smith.....	13 85
“ Orphan's Home.....	13 40
Total receipts.....	<u>\$81 10</u>
Paid Orphan's Home.....	\$13 40
“ Foreign Missions.....	30
“ L. B. Hardin.....	26 90
“ J. P. Mooney and L. P. Kiker for S. A. Smith...	13 85
“ printing 400 minutes.....	16 00
“ clerk.....	9 65
“ paper and postage.....	1 00
Total paid out.....	<u>\$81 10</u>

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. WATTS, Treasurer.

Appointed J. S. Watts Treasurer for ensuing year.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

We, your committee on documents, report that there is nothing that is filed with the clerk that would claim our attention except the requests from Oakman, Townley and Berry Station churches, for the next Association to meet with them; and the church at Spring Hill asks for a letter of dismission. We recommend that the Association meet with Berry Church, and that Spring Hill Church be granted a letter

Respectfully submitted, N. H. HARBIN, Chairman.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Your committee on nominations, report: To preach the Introductory Sermon at the next Association, L. A. Morris, alternate, W. P. Smith. To preach Sunday at 11 o'clock, H. C. Hurley. Delegates to the State Convention: H. G. Amerson, G. D. O'Rear, J. R. Sartain, J. S. Watts, R. V. Goss and C. C. Collins. Southern Baptist Convention: H. C. Hurley; alternate, J. I. McCollum.

We recommend that this Association henceforth convene at 11 o'clock a. m. and proceed with business, and have the Introductory Sermon preached on Saturday night instead of at 11.

SHERIFF LACY, Chairman.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your committee report as follows:

Received for State Missions.....	\$ 3 20
“ “ Foreign Missions.....	7 00
“ “ L. B. Harbin.....	2 25
“ “ Orphanage.....	1 00
“ “ Minutes.....	21 85
“ “ Associational purposes.....	10 95
	<u>\$46 25</u>

CREDITS.

Paid to L. B. Harbin.....	\$ 2 25
“ Executive committee—sta., mis.....	3 20
“ J. S. Watts, Foreign Missions.....	7 00
“ J. S. Watts, Orphanage.....	1 00
“ J. S. Watts, Minutes.....	21 85
“ J. S. Watts, Associational purposes.....	10 95

Respectfully submitted,

\$46 25

G. D. O'REAR, Chairman.

- On Temperance—S Lacy, James Rutledge and R F Sumner.
 On State Missions—James Hilton, J E Vice and W T Sherer.
 On Home Missions—C C Collins, H G Amerson and E H Pool.
 On Foreign Missions—W T Rutledge, J M Williams and W P Smith.
 On Denominational Education—J H McGuire, W W Popwell and R V Goss.
 On Religious Literature—C C Kelley, W H Sides and J L Wright.
 On Orphan's Home—H L Watlington, J F Appling and J C Daniel.
 On Prayer and Prayer Meeting—L B Harbin, D J Files and J W Bagwell.
 On Aged and Infirm Ministers—W G Davis, E S Carden and E L Brown.
 Executive Committee—J F Appling, G D O'Rear, D J Files, D H Clifton and S W Vice.
 Committee to Organize Sunday Schools—J A Huggins, J S Watts, G G Bagwell, R L Baker and H G Amerson.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

On motion, a collection was taken for Bro. James Hilton, amounting to \$10.45.

The following resolutions were read and adopted :

Resolved, That the delegates composing the Sixty-Second Annual Session of the North River Association do tender their most sincere thanks to the magnanimous citizens of the City of Jasper and vicinity for the royal entertainment given them during the present session of this Association.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this body that no member of the Baptist Church should use intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

Resolved, That our thanks be and are hereby tendered to the Moderator and Clerk for their efficient services during this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

R. L. BAKER.

On motion, the Association allowed the Clerk the Associational fund for his services.

On motion, the Association recommended to the State Board of Missions Bro. L. A. Morris as a suitable man to put in this part of the State as an evangelist and colporteur.

Pledges to be paid to the Executive Committee for Bro. James Hilton :

Bethabara.....	\$ 1 00
Bethel	1 00
Carbon Hill.....	2 50
Mt. Joy.....	1 00
Oakman.....	2 50
Pleasant Grove.....	2 00
Providence	2 00
Samaria (paid).....	1 00
Townley.....	1 25
New Prospect (paid 50c).....	1 00
Jasper	10 00

Total amount pledged.....\$25 25

14 *North River Baptist Association.*

On motion, the reading of the Minutes and roll-call was dispensed with.

The Association adjourned to meet with Berry Station Church, in Fayette county, on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1897.

W. B. APPLING, Moderator.

J S. WATTS, Clerk.



STATISTICS OF NORTH RIVER ASSOCIATION, 1896.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY	PASTOR	CLERK.	P. O.	Membership last Reported.	Inc. by Baptism.	Inc. by Letter.	Inc. by Restoration.	Decrease by Letter.	Decr by Exclusion.	Decrease by Death.	Present Membership	Minute Fund.	Association Fund.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions	Pastor's Salary.	Aged Ministers.	Other Church Ex.
Bethabara.	Fayette.	G W Baker.	T N Harbin.	Berry Sta	33	9	2	9	3	2	1	35	\$ 85	\$ 25				\$18 00		
Bethlehem.	Tuscaloosa	I L Collins.	J W Popwell.	"	67	4	4	10	1	1	1	67	1 00	1 00			\$ 2 25	30 00		
Bethel.	Walker.	A Kilgore.	James Wilcott.	Oakman.	38	3	9	1	10	1	1	41	75	50	50				\$ 1 25	
Berry Sta.	Fayette.	J M Collins.	B F Truman.	Berry Sta					1	1	1	24	70	25	\$ 1 00					
Bethpage.	not	represented																		
Carbon Hill	Walker.	J I McCallum	J W McGary.	Carbon Hill	21	16	8	8				29	1 00	50	6 78			50 00		
Coal City.	not	represented																		
Jasper.	Walker.	H C Hurley	S Lacy.	Jasper	206	15	8	14	2	2	2	211	3 00	2 00	55 72	\$5.00	39 00	660 67	14 21	268 19
Lebanon.	Walker	not	represented																	
Liberty Grove.	Walker.	C C Collins.	J M Sides	Luckey.	78	17	14	3	20	7	1	69	1 00	1 15				44 30		
Liberty.	Walker	B F Shaubs.	W L Blackwell	Nauvoo.	41	9	3	9	3	3	1	51	1 25	25						
Mt. Zion.	Walker	Win Patton.	W R Thacher.	Patton.	58	5	1	3	3	1	51	1 00			70		2 75	22 32		
Mt. Joy.	Fayette.	W G Baker	H G Amerson.	Toledo.	52	3	1	3	3	1	52	75						32 88		
Mt. Carmel.	Walker	J W Rogers.	Joel Nations.	Cordova.	53	3	1	3	3	1	53							55 00		
New Hope.	Tuscaloosa	A Kilgore.	E H Bagwell	Oregonia.	57	1	1	1	1	1	58	60	1 00					22 65		
New Prospect.	Walker	W T Rutledge	M M Sheer	Jasper	81	25	7	4	7	2	3	112	75	1 00	5 66	2 40	3 68	102 80	15 54	285 21
Oakman.	Walker.	J E Barnard.	T S Watts.	Oakman.	83	23	17	5	3	1	109	2 00	1 00	65				44 75	1 00	1 00
Oregonia	Tuscaloosa	S E Hodge.	R L Baker.	Oregonia.	86	6	1	5	3	1	197	1 45	1 05							
Pleasant G.	Walker.	J R Sartain.	A S Sparks.	Oakman.	191	12	1	10	5	2	83	1 50	1 05							
Providence	"	represented	W M Watts.		192	2														
Pleasant F.	not	represented																		
Parish	not	represented																		
Samaria.	Walker.	C C Collins	R F Sumner.	Jasper.	100	12	5	1	3	1	2	112	2 00	1 20				57 94		2 40
Saragosa.	"	C O Collins.	D S Smith.	Saragosa.								13	50	25				1 50		
Townley	"	L A Morris	R L Fike.	Townley.	65	8	1	1	3	1	1	70	75		1 50			50		
Union Grove																				
Zion																				
					1427	147	88	1123	85	17	1495	\$21 85	\$10 95	\$71 31	\$7 40	\$49 68	\$1.141 26	\$32 00	\$59 30	

1427 147 148 111 123 35 17 1 195 \$21 85 \$10 95 \$71 31 \$7 40 \$49 68 \$11 41 26 \$32 00 \$559 30

NOTE.—Preaching Sabbaths.—Bethabara, 4; Bethlehem, 1; Berry Station, 3; Jasper, 1, 2, 3 and 4; Liberty Grove, 3; Mt. Zion, 2; Mt. Joy, 3; New Prospect, 1; Oakman, 4; Providence, 3; Saragosa, 2; Townley, 1. Prayer Meetings.—Bethabara, 1; Jasper, 1; Oakman, 1; Providence, 1; Townley, 1; Pleasant Grove 1; Oregonia 1. Revivals.—Jasper, 1; Liberty Grove, 1; Mt. Zion, 1; Oakman, 1; Pleasant Grove, 1; Samaria, 1. Sunday Schools reported six only in all this Association.